

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 /085 W
-----020089 181754Z /50

O 181738Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1872
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11066

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: CH, UR, US, PE, PR
SUBJECT: PRIVATE SOVIET COMMENTS ON BRZEZINSKI VISIT TO
PEKING

REF: MOSCOW 11034

1. REFTEL REPORTS SHARP UPSWING IN SOVIET PUBLIC
COMMENTARY ON EVE OF BRZEZINSKI VISIT WARNING WEST AGAINST
COLLUDING WITH PRC ANTI-SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY. AS INDICATED
REFTEL, SOVIETS IN PRIVATE HAVE BEEN INQUIRING ABOUT THE
VISITS PURPOSE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE SINO-US
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NORMALIZATION.

2. IN MAY 18 CONVERSATION BETWEEN EMBOFF AND USA INSTITUTE
ASIAN SPECIALIST VLADIMIR LUKIN AND BORIS ZANYEGIN, LUKIN
RAISED QUESTION OF BRZEZINSKI VISIT. HE OPINED THAT IT WAS
UNUSUAL FOR BRZEZINSKI AND NOT THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO
BE MAKING THE VISIT TO CHINA. AS EVERYONE KNOWS, HE

STATED, VANCE AND BRZEZINSKI HAVE DIFFERENT OUTLOOKS ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS. HE STATED THAT IN THE UNITED STATES THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ADVOCATE THAT THE US USE RELATIONS WITH CHINA AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION. OTHERS TAKE A "GEO-POLITICAL VIEW OF HOW THE US SHOULD ACT. THUS, IF SOMETHING IS GOING WRONG FOR THE US IN ONE PART OF THE WORLD, THESE PEOPLE LOOK FOR WAYS TO APPLY COUNTER-PRESSURE IN ANOTHER PART OF THE WORLD. HE RECALLED THAT, ON THE PLANE RIDE HOME FROM LAST MAY'S VANCE-GROMYKO MEETING IN GENEVA, THE SECRETARY ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD BE MOVING THE DATE FORWARD FOR HIS 1977 PEKING VISIT FROM NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER TO AUGUST. LUKIN CONTENDED THAT, IF THE US DOES NOT OVERTLY-ATTEMPT TO PLAY THE "CHINA CARD," IT HOPES TO MAINTAIN OR DEEPEN THE BAD STATE OF SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS BY PURSUING BETTER RELATIONS WITH CHINA AND DHEREBY ENCOURAGING PEKING GO MOVE FURTHER AWAY FROM THE SOVIET UNION.

3. COMMENT. THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SOVIET COMMENTARY ON THE EVE OF THE BRZEZINSKI VISIT ILLUSTRATES BOTH STRONG SOVIET SENSITIVITIES ABOUT POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVING SINO-US RELATIONS AND A SOVIET FRUSTRATION OVER INABILITY TO DO ANYTHING TO HALT OR TO NEUTRALIZE WHAT SOVIETS PERCEIVE AS THIS TREND. IF PRC DIPLOMATS STATEMENT ON POOR PROSPECTS FOR THE IL'ICHEV TALKS ARE ANY GUIDE (MOSCOW 10941), THE SOVIETS ARE NOT GOING TO BE MAKING ANY CONCESSIONS AT THE CURRENT BORDER NEGOTIATIONS. SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS ARE VERY LIKELY TO REMAIN STRAINED AND CONFIDENTIAL

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PRC EFFORTS TO MOBILIZE WORLD WIDE ANTI-SOVIET UNITED FRONT WILL LIKELY CONTINUE UNABATED. THIS BASIC IMMOBILITY IN THE SOVIET POSITION ON THE BORDER, AND SINO-SOVIET

RELATIONS IN GENERAL LEAVE MOSCOW LITTLE FLEXIBILITY TO COUNTER IMPROVING SINO-US RELATIONS, EXCEPT THROUGH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROTESTATIONS AND WARNINGS. MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW11066
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780209-1099
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780545/aaaabluw.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 81c6309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MOSCOW 11034
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2651925
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIVATE SOVIET COMMENTS ON BRZEZINSKI VISIT TO PEKING
TAGS: PEPR, OVIP, CH, UR, US, PE, (BRZEZINSKI, ZBIEGNEW)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/81c6309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014